

'Maker of Modern Mangaluru'

Ullal Srinivas Mallya

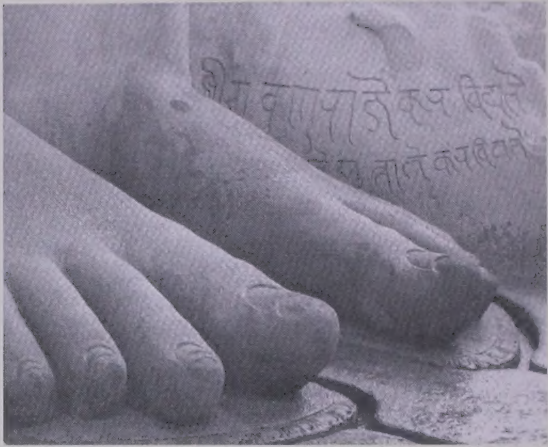


Konkani Language & Cultural Foundation

World Konkani Centre

Lobo Prabhu Nagar, Konkani Gaon

Shaktinagar, Mangaluru-575016



Antiquity of Konkani language written in Devnagari script:

An inscription at the foot of the colossal statue of Bahubali at Shravanbalagola in Karnataka written in Konkani language in Devnagari script is found.

There are two lines in this inscription. The first was inscribed in Circa 981 AD and which read as श्री चावुंडराजे करवियले (Sri Chavundaraaje karaviyale) which means Sri Chavundaraja got this done. The second line was inscribed in 1167 AD and reads श्री गंग राजे सुत्ताले करवियले (Sri Ganga Raje Sutthale karaviyale) which means Sri Ganga Raja got done the circumambulation work.

Vishwa Konkani Sahitya - 33

'Maker of Modern Mangaluru'
Ullal Srinivas Mallya

Basti Vaman Shenoy

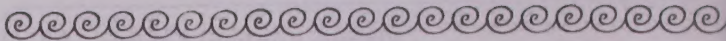


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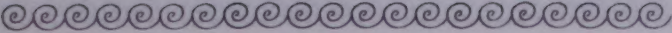
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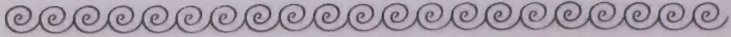
PUBLISHER'S NOTE

I had developed a great admiration for Ullal Srinivas Mallya as I grew up hearing the legends from elders in Bantwal about Mallyas adventures and life, thoughts, projects, achievements and the dedication with which he served the society and the nation, Several of my elder persons were contemporaries of Mallya. I used to hear with awe whenever they spoke about the shrewdness of Mallya, his determination as well as the strategies he had adopted to complete the tasks at hand on time.

I learnt about the urge which Mallya had within him to work towards the betterment of everyone in the society, his commitment to serve the nation and his distaste for power-Mallya's way of life was thus a great inspiration to me.

The compassion which he had towards his compatriots in freedom struggle and their families and the urge which he had within him to serve them, influenced me to a great extent. It were these reasons which often made me think about penning down whatever I knew about Mallya in the form of a book. But the hectic activities in which I was involved at different phases of life did not give me enough time towards that direction.

Later, when I became the President of the Karnataka Konkani Sahitya Academy in 1997 and took up the project of bringing out books on the life of 'Great Konkani men' I wrote a biography of late Ullal Srinivas Mallya. I had compiled whatever I had come to know about Mallya from elders and relatives, in the form of a small booklet named "Sri Ullal Srinivas Mallya." Later my friend in Mangaluru Akashavani Sri Muddu Moodubelle contacted me and translated my book on Mallya into Tulu language. I had published this book on behalf of 'Basti Prakashana.' Later, I authored another book carrying extensive details and entitled "Maulyaadhaaritha Raajakaarani Ullal Srinivas Mallya" as per the request of Kanthavara Kannada Sangha's Founder Dr. Na. Mogasaale and the same was published by them. Sri Muddu Moodubelle had collected some more information as well as photographs relating to Late Mallya. I am grateful to my friend Sri Muddu Moodubelle and Dr. Na. Mogasaale for their initiative.



December 19, 2015 happened to be Ullal Srinivas Mallya's 50th death anniversary. Today, there is no one who has known Mallya personally from close quarters. In this age of hectic political and social lives when people have no time to think or know about late Mallya, this book "Architect of Modern Mangaluru" Ullal Srinivas Mallya has been brought out under the "Vishwa Konkani Literature Project" with the objective of immortalising the memory of late Ullal Srinivas Mallya and to enlighten the present as well as the future generation about this great personality who laid a strong foundation towards the social, educational and Industrial and economic development of the coastal districts.

The Book which profiles Ullal Srinivas Mallya and furnishes ample details about his life and his achievements as a politician and Member of Parliament has been published on behalf of the Konkani Bhas Ani Sanskriti Pratishtana at a time when the '50th Smriti Diwas of Ullal Srinivas Mallya' is being observed meaningfully through a variety of programmes. I thank Smt. Jayashree Sudhir Mangaluru for the English Translation of the Kannada original. I am grateful to M/s. Codeword Process Printers for printing this book beautifully.

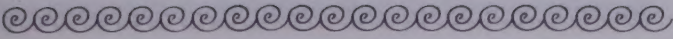
**World Konkani Centre
Shaktinagar, Mangaluru**

**Basti Vaman Shenoy
President**

Konkani Language and Cultural Foundation

WE THANK

**Kannada and Culture Department,
Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru
for Financial Aid to Publish this Book**



PREFACE

I have very fond memories of late Sri Ullal Srinivas Mallya. My father, Justice K S Hegde who was a member of the first Rajya Sabha from 1952-56 entry to politics was largely due to two persons viz., Sri Ullal Srinivas Mallya and Dr. A B Shetty . As a young boy I had numerous occasions to enjoy the hospitality of Sri. U.S Mallya's wife Smt Indira Mallya. The effort he put to get road connectivity from Ullal to Byndoor is the work of a genius. The entire credit for building the Mangalore port, the Karnataka Regional Engineering College now the National Institute of Technology and the Mangalore Airport should go to Late Ullal Srinivas Mallya. The Town Hall was constructed under his visionary direction. He is truly the 'Architect' of modern Dakshina Kannada.

Sri Ullal Srinivas Mallya was a rare person who had wonderful virtues. Being a man of such a stature his simplicity would amaze any one. His intelligence, Integrity, principled outlook earned him the respect of one and all. He treated everyone with the same kind of respect and affection. Though he was a politician, religion, caste etc., would not come his way, when it came to helping people. In fact he had remarkable way of taking people together irrespective of their social background and political affiliations.

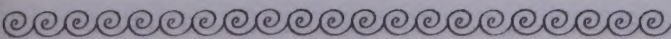
In short, Late Sri Ullal Srinivas Mallya was a great personality who lived for the society and sacrificed all comforts that came to him, for the benefit of the common man. His life of sacrifice and concern for others did not leave behind enough finances for his dear wife, who led a frugal life till the end.

I pay my respectful homage to this great visionary, the builder of modern Dakshina Kannada and a true human being.

I also appreciate the efforts of Vishwa Konkani Kendra Mangaluru to commemorate the memory of Late Sri U.S. Mallya by publishing English Translation of the book in Kannda & Konkani on the life and deeds of Late Ullal Srinivas Mallya written by the Founder and President and my good friend Sri Basti Vaman Shenoy during the 'Maker of Modern Mangaluru Ullal Srinivas Mallya 50th anniversary Year celebrations'. I wish all success of the programmes during the year.

Mangalore
19.12.2015

(N . Vinaya Hegde)
Chancellor
Nitte University, Mangaluru



'Ullal Srinivas Mallya'

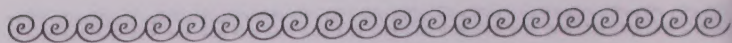
Maker of Modern Mangalore

Dakshina Kannada district has a place of special significance in the picturesque western coast of line of India. The enterprising people of this district have contributed immensely to the political, social, religious, cultural and educational and Banking fields. Great men and women from the district have excelled in diverse fields in the nation as well as abroad. Be it the co-operative movement or the movement aimed at allowing entry of Dalits to temples, leaders of the district have been in the lead in almost every movement. They have sacrificed much for the ideals they professed and were appreciated by great freedom fighters like Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabha Bhai Patel thus leaving an indelible mark in the history of the nation.

Late Ullal Srinivasa Mallya is one of the greatest politicians of our district, who not only actively participated in the freedom struggle but also strived to protect that hard earned freedom thereby contributing significantly to nation building activities. If people from north India knew him as Mallaiah, in Dakshina Kannada district he was popular as Sheenappa Mallya or Sheenappa Malyer.

Srinivasa Mallya was born on November 20, 1902 in the famous Ullal Mallya family of the district. Sri. Ullal Manjunath Mallya and Saraswathi alias Rukma Bhai were his parents. Madhava Mallya was his elder brother and his another elder brother Dr. U. Padmanabha Mallya was a renowned social worker of the district. (A Road in Carstreet is also named after him). Smt. Bhami Sanjeevi Panduranga Shenoy and Uppinangady Smt. Lakshmi Narasimha Bhatta were his sisters.

Born in a pious and deeply religious family of businessmen, Srinivas Mallya grew up to be a devout as well as a patriot of the land. He was known for his spirit of sacrifice as well as selfless service right since his



youthful days. Greatly, influenced by Mahatma Gandhiji, he later joined the Indian National Congress and remained committed to the principles and ideologies of the party.

Education

Mallya studied at St. Aloysius Primary School in Mangaluru upto eighth standard and pursued further education at Canara High School from where he completed his matriculation. He then joined the Government College in Mangaluru (Present University College) for further studies.

Childhood

The Mallya family of Mangaluru in which Srinivas Mallya was born was known for its philanthropic activities. It were Gowda Saraswaths who ruled the business arena in the Bunder area of Mangaluru during those times. Even the Ullal Mallya family owned Bhandasales there. It may not be wrong to state that the philanthropic activities of the family too had a role to play in the wealth earned by the family from its business. Born in such a respected family, Srinivas Mallya imbibed noble qualities right since his childhood and had great sympathy for the poor and the downtrodden. Here is one instance which was a reflection of his generosity.

When Srinivas Mallya was pursuing his high school education, his parents always gave him a pocket money of Rupees Two every month (It was in fact quite a big amount during those days). If Srinivas Mallya's other classmates who too were from affluent families, spent their pocket money on themselves that was not the case with Srinivas Mallya who used to set aside Re One out of it. Exactly on the first of every month he used to hand it over as alms to a beggar who was begging on the road leading to his school. The sparkle in the eyes of the beggar as the Re one coin tinkled when Mallya would place it in his begging bowl was enough for the latter to experience a great sense of satisfaction, recall many of his friends. Mallya also had a great concern for the poor and the downtrodden in the society



which was evident in his involvement in several welfare programmes for SC/STs as per the vision of Mahatma Gandhi.

Even as he pursued collegiate education, it was the ongoing freedom struggle that caught the fancy of Srinivas Mallya. Mahatma Gandhi's visit to Mangaluru in the year 1920, his participation in various programmes and his talks on the role people have to play in the freedom struggle, the significance of non-violence movement, welfare of Dalits, the issue of entry of Dalits to temples, importance of Khadi and Charaka etc greatly inspired Mallya. He decided to plunge into the freedom struggle when he was just 18.

Had he wished, Mallya could have carried on his ancestral family business at Bunder and led a life of luxury. But, the patriotic spirit, revolutionary ideologies and concern for the downtrodden which were deeply embedded in his mind and heart took Mallya much further in the struggle for nation's freedom. He pledged to dedicate his life to free his mother land from the clutches of the colonial forces.

In the 1920s and 30s, the great patriot Karnad Sadashiva Rao was spearheading the freedom struggle not just in Mangaluru, but in the whole of Karnataka. Accepting his invitation, Mahatma Gandhiji visited the district for the first time on August 19, 1920 and participated in various meetings. The fire of freedom was kindled in the minds of young Srinivas Mallya as in case of thousands of other youth who heard Gandhiji's powerful speeches and he decided to dedicate his life for the cause of his mother land.

Srinivas Mallya whose association with the Indian National Congress party began as an ordinary volunteer, very soon caught the attention of many through his immense capabilities, his intellect and dedicated works. Firstly, he was nominated as the Secretary of the DK District Congress Committee and later was elected as a member of the Karnataka Pradesha Congress Committee which was headquartered in Hubballi in the pre-



independence times. The patronage which Mallya received from another Mangalorean Smt. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya who was also close to top leaders of those days including Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhaschandra Bose and others also helped him climb the hierarchy and rise to greater positions.

Mallya's shrewdness, his organisational skills, his cultured behaviour as well as his ability to crack jokes even during the most difficult times brought him much closer to Congress leaders as well as party workers and he soon came to be a widely acceptable leader in the party.

Srinivas Mallya who was active in the freedom struggle in 1930s had to even go underground on many occasions and was clever enough to evade the watchful eyes of the cops by always having a ready trick up his sleeves.

In one of his escapades, Mallya was in hiding in the residence of a relative, a senior government officer in Mumbai. Still the police managed to gather intelligence information that Mallya was in hiding there. When the police officials who had until then not seen Mallya in person entered the house, they saw a slim youth wearing soiled clothes holding a broom in hand and sweeping. When police questioned him, his reply was vague but he asked the cops to be seated saying his master would soon be there. He continued sweeping and simply vanished from the house, thus managing to throw dust at the eyes of the police. In a similar fashion, Mallya had evaded arrest through his clever tactics on several more occasions.

I have also heard of an instance from elders of how once when Mallya who was in hiding in the residence of Sujeer Pundalika Nayak at Marine Drive in Mumbai, on learning that the police would be there at any moment in search of him, shaved his moustache, smeared Gopichandana Namas on his forehead and soon left Mumbai for Mangaluru. That Mallya used to often play hide and seek with the police was often revealed by many elders. While reading about Mallya's escapades one should never conclude that Mallya just whiled away his time in evading arrest rather than participating in the freedom struggle.



Following the clarion call given by Mahatma Gandhiji, Mallya even participated in the Salt Saytagriha during the Quit India Movement in 1942 and underwent imprisonment. Even during his prison term, Mallya was as jovial as usual by cracking jokes and entertaining his jail mates. This quality of Mallya also earned him the appreciation of several national leaders as well as politicians of other states who too were behind bars. Mallya's words had such a magnetic charm that people who once met him remembered him forever.

Keeping in mind the interests of the families of the Indian fighters who were imprisoned during freedom struggle, Mallya had introduced a system of extending financial aid and other amenities to the families during 1937 to 1946. He had made similar arrangements to provide aid to the staff working in Congress party offices, thus ensuring that no family suffered for want of funds. I have even heard that on many occasions, senior leaders too used to avail assistance from Mallya.

In 1937, a British delegation which arrived from London managed to convince the local Congress leaders to set up people's government in states. Srinivas Mallya had then taken up the responsibility of extending financial aid to the Congress workers who were pitted against land lords and the wealthy people who were in favour of the British. He also had the responsibility of appointing volunteers and good orators for campaigning purposes. Srinivas Mallya's efforts did not go in vain as significant number of Congress candidates won the elections, thus earning accolades for Mallya in the party's rank and file.

In due course of time, he came to be known as an influential leader in the Pradesh Congress Committee. He was always in the lead in implementing Gandhiji's programmes like Khadi and village industries promotion, entry of Dalits to temples, implementation of Hindi as national language, eradication of casteism etc with great dedication and involvement. Mallya had to also undergo imprisonment in the process of implementing these schemes.



Marriage

Amidst Srinivas Malaya's busy schedule in politics and freedom struggle there also came a marriage proposal for him. He eventually tied the nuptial knot to Indira Bai, daughter of Sahukar Damodar Prabhu of the famed 'Glass House' Prabhu family of Bantwal. Even after wedding, he never shunned his earlier responsibilities and carried forward his works with the same zeal.

After Independence

In the post-independent India Mallya forged ahead in politics on his own pre-determined path winning friends as well as foes in the process. He had always ensured that he took everyone into confidence in all his works. The one great quality of Mallya was that he never hated his opponents but whole-heartedly helped them whenever they approached him and even encouraged some of his friends to come to their aid. In a way it may not be wrong to state that Mallya had friends everywhere, earned widespread respect and was also termed as 'Ajathashathru.'

As Mallya consolidated his position in politics it can very well be said that he enjoyed the blessings of the Almighty too. When the British finally decided to leave India and proposed to have a coalition government comprising Congress and Muslim League leaders, the plan was to appoint Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as the Prime Minister, Liyaqat Ali Khan of Muslim League as his Deputy and senior leaders like Sardar Patel as Ministers. It was also announced that a National level House of Representatives will be constituted. Though the Congress had chosen Smt. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya, an eminent freedom fighter and a close aide of Pandit Nehru and Jayaprakash Narayan as a member of the House of Representatives, Kamaladevi who was least interested in occupying such a position, instead recommended the name of Srinivas Mallya who hailed from her own town, and had close ties with her. Kamaladevi also managed



to convince Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to get Mallya on board the House of Representatives. This instance proves how freedom fighters and leaders of those times were never after power or position. There are several such examples. Though Mallya later on became a close associate of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru he never used his clout to secure a ministerial position, but instead always encouraged talented leaders by recommending their names for ministerial berths or other posts.

The British who left India in 1947 had however gifted India a Parliamentary System of British model, Indian Administrative Service for appointment to government postings, and many such good systems. Understanding the significance of some such systems, leaders of independent India accepted them wholeheartedly.

When the rule of Maharajas in Mysuru where the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee was headquartered, came to an end after independence, the Mysuru Congress Committee was merged with the KPCC and was declared as a unified Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee. It was during this time that Srinivas Mallya was appointed as Constituent Assembly member of the Delhi Committee and also as Chief Whip, a post he held from 1948 till his last breathe.

This position also gave him an opportunity to develop close contacts with several senior as well as new members who were elected to the Parliament from across the nation. In the process he also learnt about their discipline and dedication and recommended the names of the ablest among them to top leaders. Mallya's friendly nature also encouraged many ordinary members to unhesitantly air their aspirations with him, thereby earning him the faith and confidence of all members irrespective of party lines.

Mallya also enjoyed the title of a trouble-shooter in the party as Pandit Nehru who had great faith in him always sent him as an emissary whenever the party was in crisis in any state. A wise and shrewd leader that he was, Mallya used his intelligence in sorting out differences and suggest



amicable solutions which were accepted by one and all, thus helping the party as well as the Government to a great extent.

Pattam Thanu Pillai was a senior politician and freedom fighter from Kerala who underwent imprisonment on several occasions. His shrewdness and strong will power had helped Pillai grow into a towering leader. But in due course of time he quit the party owing to differences with some leaders and later joined the Praja Socialist Party which was coming to the forefront then. In the Assembly elections held later on, Communist leaders emerged victorious and MS Namboodarippad became the first Chief Minister of the Communist Party in India. His efficient administration and popularity soon proved to be a head ache to the Congress which somehow wanted to wrest power in the state. Mallya, already known as a trouble shooter of the party, was sent to Kerala where his strategy proved a success earning him nation-wide attention. The very next day Pattam Thanu Pillai tendered his resignation to the Praja Socialist Party. Congress MLAs elected him as their Legislative Leader and very soon he assumed office as Chief Minister of Kerala.

In 1952 when the nation faced its first general elections after Independence, the Congress decided to face the elections under the leadership of Pandit Nehru and Dr Purushottam Das Tandon, the then President of Indian National Congress. Pandit Nehru had announced Lal Bahaddur Shastri and Ullal Srinivas Mallya as the Party Secretaries thus enabling Mallya to display his organisational capabilities at the national level.

The party chose renowned journalist Benagal Shivarao as the Lok Sabha candidate from Mangaluru in Dakshina Kannada district and Ullal Srinivas Mallya from Mangaluru North. Both eventually registered a thumping win in the elections and Mallya was elected the Chief Whip of the Congress Parliamentary Party. In the elections held later on in 1957 and 1962 too Mallya emerged victorious from Udupi constituency by a remarkable margin. Interestingly, he had never aspired for a cabinet berth during his



17 year stint as MP, but always had the progress and welfare of his home constituency upper most in mind.

Mallya who had served first as a member of Constituent Assembly and later as MP from 1947 to 1965 had never raised his voice in the parliament. Instead he used to quietly sit on the last bench and observe the MPs and Ministers, their style of functioning and participation in Lok Sabha proceedings and gauge their performance. It was this distinct quality of Mallya that enabled him to recommend the names of the most eligible amongst the members irrespective of whether they were from the ruling or the opposition parties, for various sub-committees. This quality of Mallya helped Mallya earn great respect of the ruling as well as opposition party members equally.

Just like Srinivasa Mallya, another Mangalurean Hundi Vishnu Kamath (Hari Vishnu Kamath known as in north Indians) had served the Constituent Assembly after 1947 and later as Lok Sabha Member. Kamath had completed collegiate education in Mangaluru, pursued higher education in Britain and even succeeded in the Indian Civil Service and Indian Administrative Service Exams. Kamath who had a revolutionary bent of mind, upon completion of his Indian Civil Service joined as an officer under British rule. The revolutionary changes brought about by him in the administration made him immensely popular. Sri H.V. Kamath who was also an associate of Netaji Subhaschandra Bose very soon quit the ICS service and joined the national struggle along with Netaji. He later contested from Madhya Pradesh several times as a Congress candidate and then was elected from the Praja Socialist Party. His continuous tirade against Pandit Nehru and his government proved a big head ache to Nehru himself. Along with him, leaders like Mahaveera Tyagi, Ram Manohar Lohia, Barrister Nath Pai, Hridayanath Kunjru who were in the opposition benches, used to hurl a volley of questions at the government. But all of them were personally good friends with Sri Mallya. Still, whenever they used to land the government in a tight spot in the Lok Sabha, it was



Mallya's shrewd manoeuvres that actually prevented them from tabling any motions.

It had become a practice for chief ministers from any state in the nation who visited Delhi during those times to first meet Shree Mallya and apprise him about the intentions of their visit. It was through Mallya they used to make their demands known to the Union Ministers concerned. This made their task easy when they met the ministers later. Mallya was thus close to all chief ministers who too had full faith and confidence in him. This was revealed by none other than a former chief minister of Karnataka Shree Veerendra Patil who had visited Bantwal during the 1972 Lok Sabha elections and had heaped praises on Shri Mallya for his several initiatives.

Srinivasa Mallya and Dakshina Kannada District

Today, 'Infrastructure' is one word around which several discussions are centered upon. Much is spoken about spending lakhs and crores on infrastructure development. Union and State Governments even constitute high level committees to announce infrastructure development schemes. Deadlines are set and finally extended and in the process several crores are misappropriated leading to allegations and counter allegations.

But, way back in the early 1950s it was Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who paved way for the introduction of the first Five Year Plan with the objective of overall development of the nation. At a time when the nation was afflicted by poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and epidemics, Nehru declared that Five Year Plan was the only panacea for India's ailments. We, the people of Dakshina Kannada were very much fortunate to get the best of the Five Year Plan and the credit entirely goes to Sri Ullal Srinivas Mallya.

The projects which Sri. Mallya, a right hand man of the then Prime Minister Pandit Nehru and a staunch loyalist of Lal Bahaddur Shastri, gifted his home district of Dakshina Kannada district was an eye opener for politicians of other states. His achievements left even his political opponents stunned and they too were all praise for Mallya and his achievements. Once when the great socialist, trade union leader and one



of India's finest politicians George Fernandes had visited Mangaluru, in one of his addresses he had said "The credit of the progress of Dakshina Kannada district should go to Mallya. Other leaders only tried to show the world in their palms to the people."

Mallya who had extensively travelled to every nook and corner of Dakshina Kannada during the pre-independence times, had the picture of every village and town of the district imprinted in his mind. In the process, he had also tried to understand the pulse of the people. Probably, the great visionary might have had framed projects for the overall development of his district then and there itself.

Taking advantage of the position he enjoyed in the party as well as the Government in post-independent India, Mallya a shrewd politician that he was, took great pains to ensure his district received the best.

During the First Five Year Plan (1952-1957) and Second Five Year Plan (1957-1962), Mallya in his capacity as MP, Congress Executive Member and as Chief Whip of Lok Sabha not only ensured that the district got vital projects, but also saw to it that funds were sanctioned and the projects were implemented in phases.

I had myself seen how leaders here used to be stunned when Mallya narrated his visionary projects for Dakshina Kannada district. Once when Mallya visited Bantwal and gave a presentation on the projects he had chalked out for the development of Bantwal Taluk at a meeting of Congress workers, District Board and Panchayat Board members, everyone had listened to him with rapt attention. I was one of the participants in the meeting. Everyone present at the meeting were speechless when Mallya questioned- "What else do you want me to do for the development of your town?" What more could they ask for? Mallya also told the people to bring to his notice any of their developmental needs with an assurance that he would fulfil the same.



Mallya always disliked criticism of any government employee by any elected representative. His policy was that one should not complain against the bureaucracy but get one's work done by taking them into confidence. He was of the strong belief that this would ensure development and I have myself heard Mallya stressing this aspect at meetings. It was through this technique that Mallya who knew the ins and outs of every inch of this land, used to get projects implemented in the district.

The project that he had initiated and implemented during his tenure as MP are as follows.

Mangaluru Akashavani (Mangaluru)

Mangaluru Airport (Bajpe)

Mangaluru-Hassan Railway Project

National Highway-17

National Highway-42

Karnataka Regional Engineering College (Now NITK)

Mangaluru All Weather Port (Panambur)

Mangaluru Chemicals and Fertilizers (Panambur)

The setting up of the Akashavani Kendra in Mangaluru at a time when only a handful of such centres were functioning across the nation, was something which the people here could cheer about.

Similarly, the Mangaluru Airport came up at Bajpe at a time when Bengaluru was the only city in the state which could boast of an airport along with few other cities in the nation. An airport in Mangaluru was something to be extremely proud of in south India during those times.

The Mangaluru-Hassan Railway Line Proposal made during the First Five Year Plan period itself is a testimony to the farsightedness of Mallya. The



Project was inaugurated later when Sri. T.A. Pai was the Union Railway Minister. To know that conversion of this line into a Broad Gauge took as long as 14 years in the later years is a mirror to the 'efficiency' of our leaders.

Almost half a century ago it took exactly one and a half days to reach Kundapur from Mangaluru. One had to cross several rivers and lakes, travel by boats and then on roads to reach the coastal town. Mallya who was very well aware of this problem, took advantage of the Kashmir To Kanyakumari National Direct Link Project initiated under the Second Five Year plan and exerted his influence to see to it that the National Highway 17 which started from Mumbai passed through Karwar, Kumta, Honnavar, Kundapur, Udupi, Mangaluru and Kerala state.

Similarly, Mallya was also instrumental in kick-starting the Mangaluru-Hassan-Bengaluru National Highway Project by laying foundation for the same. If the present day leaders create much hype about infrastructure, Mallya gave a boost to major infrastructure development projects silently.

When Lal Bahaddur Shastri was the Union Education Minister he had proposed setting up of Regional Engineering Colleges in four locations in the nation with the objective of offering higher technical education to the students. Srinivas Mallya who came to know about this, immediately approached Shastri with a request to sanction a regional engineering college to his home town of Mangaluru. It seems Shastri who was convinced with the arguments placed forth by Mallya in support of his home town, agreed to the demand. That was enough for Mallya immediately telephoned the then PWD Engineer in Mangaluru Sri. M.R. Shreshta and directed him to inspect a vacant land at Suratkal which was ideal for setting up of a Regional Engineering College and also to seek the assistance of CPC Managing Director Sri V.S. Kudva to erect a temporary structure there. He also said that he would ensure that it was inaugurated by Lal Bahaddur Shastri himself 15 days later. Mallya even informed Sri Kudva asking



him to provide all assistance sought by Shreshta. The swift action by Sri Kudva and Sri Shreshta saw the first temporary structure of the Regional Engineering College come up at Suratkal. It was inaugurated by Sri Lal Bahaddur Shastri himself thus providing access to technical education to thousands of aspiring youngsters from the district. The cleverness of Mallya coupled with the efficiency of ML Shreshta helped in realising the vision of having a Regional Engineering College at Suratkal. If not for Mallya, this engineering college would never have come up in our district.

At this juncture one has to mention about Sri. M. L Shreshta. He was one of the best engineers which our district has seen and was known for his dedication, efficiency and sincerity. He was a master in ensuring there was the co-operation of everyone in implementing any project efficiently. He used to take up road and building work without the hassles of any tender by appointing dedicated contractors and by encouraging them to complete the works with sincerity as per the schedule. One has to mention the role played by Shreshta in implementing the programmes and projects of Mallya in lightning speed in the district. The society indeed lacks such sincere and committed officials in the present times.

Those were the times when monsoons in Dakshina Kannada (right from Kundapur to Kasargod) would mean overflowing rivers and submerged roads bringing untold hardships to the people. Being well aware of this problem, Srinivas Mallya took steps to raise the heights of all bridges across rivers in the district during the First and Second Five Year Plan period. Mallya's dedication to the core was evident with him monitoring every project that he initiated right from implementation to execution, keeping officials and ministers on their toes in the process.

In the year 1962 it was decided to construct a Town Hall in Mangaluru to facilitate holding of various programmes. It was Mallya's dream to have an aesthetically beautiful and long-lasting structure for Town Hall. The task



of constructing this model Town Hall was assigned to Gannon Dunkerli, a company of international repute. The Town Hall was thus constructed as per Mallya's vision bringing him immense satisfaction.

It was during almost the same time that the Karnataka Government had prepared a blue print for the construction of Circuit House at Kadri Hills. Mallya who had once secured the blue print of the Circuit House and was observing it carefully it suddenly flashed to him that the blue print showed ample arrangements for the dignitaries and ministers but there was no seating facility for the common man who comes to the Circuit House to meet the ministers. He immediately summoned the engineers' in-charge of the construction and questioned them about this. He even directed the engineers to revise the blue print so that enough seating space could be provided in the verandah. Officials however were reluctant and said it would be a lengthy procedure as it would require fresh sanction and approval for the revised blue print apart from a fresh budget estimate. But, an undeterred Mallya asked the officials to do as he said and that all necessary approvals would be obtained. Mallya kept his words leaving the officials stunned. Such was the inimitable style of function of this greatest politician of all times.

The new bridge across River Netravathi at Ullal was under construction then. There was absolute shortage of cement here too as elsewhere in the nation. The contractors had suspended the bridge works and were all set to shift the crushing machinery and other equipment from the spot. Mallya who had come to the district from Delhi around the same time, on coming to know about this, summoned the engineers who informed him about the cement shortage which was hampering the works. No sooner Mallya returned to Delhi, the first thing he did was to summon the Finance Secretary and narrate the problem to him. He got adequate funds released and immediately sent two wagon loads of cement on priority. He then directed the officials here to resume the works. The swift move of



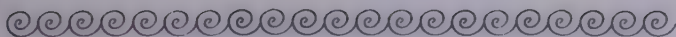
Mallya, something very remarkable during those times, thus ensured the completion of the Ullal bridge works on time.

Those were the years when Mangaluru-Bantwala Cross Road (B.C. Road) was one of the busiest roads in the nation next only to the Delhi-Agra Road. The ever increasing vehicular traffic on the Mangaluru-Puttur-Madikeri-Mysuru Road, Bengaluru-Mangaluru Road, Hassan-Bengaluru Road, and the several vehicles heading towards Chikkamagalur - Kaduru via Mangaluru and Charmady Ghat were the reason for the same. When the Mangaluru -Hassan NH 42 works were taken up, Mallya saw to it that the development of Maani-Ullal Road parallel to the Mangaluru-Bantwal Cross Road was included in the Master Plan. The idea was to develop the stretch from Melkar in Panemangaluru , Mancbi, Derlakatte upto Kotekar by widening the road. But the project could not materialise due to the neglect of officials after the demise of Mallya. Had the project been implemented then, the density of vehicles on the Mangaluru-BC Road would have reduced to a great extent long ago much to the convenience of motorists as well as tourists.

Political Life

Srinivas Mallya was a man who, despite rising to great heights in politics, never craved for any position. Caring least about his personal problems he used to work with tremendous zeal, will power, dedication and perseverance to complete the projects he had taken up.

When the first General Elections came up in 1952, it was Mallya who invited Sri N.S. Kille and Billawa leader and outstanding advocate Sri. Elyanna Poojary to apply for a party ticket to contest the elections. It is however a different matter that both these selfless leaders had never aspired to contest elections. It was Srinivas Mallya who encouraged freedom fighter and youth Congress leader Sri Lokayya Shetty to quit his LIC job, contest the elections and become a legislator. The above instances are mentioned here just to give testimony to the fact that Mallya always



strived for the party as well as the nation without expecting anything in return.

Later though Mallya got deeply involved in national politics in Delhi, being well aware of the poor financial condition of many ordinary party workers who actively participated in freedom struggle, underwent jail term and even suffered hardships while being underground, always made it a point to send some aid to them every month. Even when Mallya did not have enough funds to help his fellow party men who were ailing, he ensured that they were assisted by some of his rich friends. I have heard many freedom fighters speak high about Mallya on many occasions.

That N.S. Kille, a great Gandhian, orator and Yakshagana Arthadhari had maintained an account of the money order he used to receive from Mallya every month in his diary has been mentioned in Kille centenary souvenir.

Mallya even took pains to recommend the names of the children of several selfless freedom fighters for jobs in banks and other institutions, with a genuine concern to help the families.

Srinivas Mallya had served as Director on board of Canara Bank, Canara Public Conveyance Company Ltd. (C.P.C.) and Canara workshops Limited of DK origin. But, he never ever used his political clout to get Government aid to these institutions. During those times, the Canara Workshops needed a licence from the Union Commerce Ministry for import of ore in order to facilitate manufacture of bus and lorry springs. The company's Chairman Sri. V.S. Kudva had made several trips to Delhi to secure the license on time but of no avail. Finally, he had to even sit on a dharna in front of the residence of the minister concerned.

It was only after this move of Kudva that Srinivas Mallya apprised the minister of the problem and the licence was later duly issued to Canara Workshops. The matter was even highlighted in the Navabharatha Daily managed by Kudva. This is another instance of Mallya's unbiased attitude and sincerity.



Though Mallya enjoyed respect and honour from almost everyone in the political field, that however did not mean he never had enemies in politics. Many feared Mallya for his shrewd nature. Even Chakravarthi Rajagopalacharya, the first Governor General of India, great Gandhian and statesman who was even termed '20th Century Fox' by the British, used to term Mallya as a 'Most Dangerous Man.' Such was the distinct character of Mallya.

Siddavanahalli Nijalingappa was a leader who had sacrificed everything during the nation's freedom struggle and had a dream of seeing the formation of Karnataka State. Later in 1956 when there was a language wise bifurcation of regions and all Kannada speaking areas were merged in Mysuru state to be termed as Greater Mysuru State, it was Nijalingappa who was chosen as the first Chief Minister of the State of Mysuru.

Prior to formation of Mysuru state, Nijalingappa had served as President of KPCC for several years, while a senior leader named Gudleppa Hallikeri was the Secretary. In between there was a discord between Srinivas Mallya and Nijalingappa over some political issue. When the elections for Karnataka Pradesh Congress Presidentship came up in 1955 as expected Nijalingappa had filed his nomination and everyone were optimistic that he would be re-elected as the President.

But three days ahead of the election, Srinivas Mallya with a pre-determined plan in mind had arrived in Hubballi and camped there. He summoned all party leaders and other representatives by making innumerable phone calls. It was already decided to bring party office bearers from DK District in a special bus of the C.P.C. Company. But, a shrewd Mallya who was aware that Nijalingappa would draw all of them towards him, if they landed straight in the town, made arrangements for their stay in a lodge in the outskirts of Hubballi and ensured that they reached the town on time for the elections. Here one need not mention that Nijalingappa lost this election.



But, his defeat was something unimaginable to many during those times. But Mallya made the unthinkable happen in a matter of just three days.

Patila Puttappa, Editor of the then popular Kannada daily of Hubballi 'Prapancha' had described about this development and the strategy of Mallya as 'Mallya came to Hubballi, rolled the dice and won.' The forthcoming issues of Prapancha had sharp criticisms against Mallya holding him responsible for the defeat of Nijalingappa. "The horse sent to the race course by Mallya would win or Mallya would always vouch on the winning horse." Patila Puttappa had thus praised as well as criticised Mallya once. It was also but natural on his part to do so.

The Hunger Strike Threat

When Sri Lal Bahaddur Shastri was the Union Railway Minister the file pertaining to the Mangaluru-Hassan Railway Project was awaiting his approval since some time. Sri Mallya had already reminded Shastri at least three to four times about the file. But it seems Shastri took his own time to approve the project owing to the negative note of senior officials of the Railway Department with regard to the Project. But, will Mallya leave it that way?

As a last weapon, Mallya who travelled to Mangaluru from Delhi, sent a telegram to Shastri from Mangaluru warning him that he would go on a fast unto death in front of the Parliament Bhavan if the project was not approved. Shastri who received the telegram and being very well aware of Mallya and his adamant stand, immediately sent him a telegram stating "You need not go on a hunger strike. I have approved the Hassan-Mangaluru Project."

The efficiency with which Mallya ensured that the projects at hand were completed was simply unmatched. The efforts put in by Mallya, his firm control over things and the significance of the same could be better



understood only when one realises that it took nearly 12-14 years for the completion of the Mangaluru-Hassan Broad Gauge Line later on.

Mallya's staunch critic Patila Puttappa too used to write about some such instances in his 'Prapancha' magazine.

Srinivas Mallya who strongly believed that he was a representative of the common man, always remained away from publicity and never evinced any interest in issuing press statements. It was only when the initiated projects were completed on time laying due emphasis on quality that public came to know about it and showered praises on Mallya. Such was Mallya's distinct style of functioning. A leader who had genuine concern for the problems of the common man irrespective of caste and creed, Mallya found great pleasure and satisfaction in implementing various essential projects without expecting anything in return.

Mallya who was the architect of the New Mangalore Port was however absent at the foundation laying ceremony as he was away in some other part of India that day on account of some party work. Mallya's absence at the function which was attended by several union and state ministers was very much glaring.

Here it is worth mentioning the names of at least a few national and regional leaders who were associated with Mallya in political and social fields. If Hundi Vishnu Kamath and Barrister Natha Pai were associated with Mallya at the national level, at the state level several leaders including Sri Karnad Sadashiva Rao, Kengal Hanumanthaiah, Siddavanahalli Nijalingappa, Ranganatha Rao, Diwaker Gudlappa Hallikeri, Congress Seva Dal volunteer Maarappa Pakkala, Gurupur Mukunda Prabhu (Khadi Bhandara), M. Ramdas Kini, G. Sheshagiri Pai, Sukrunde Vittal Shenoy, KK Shetty, NS Kille, Dr. K. Nagappa Alva, Kudpi Srinivas Shenoy, Panchamal Narasimha Rao, VS Kudva, Justice K.S. Hegde, Hiriadka Ramaraya Mallya, Basti Madhav Shenoy of Bantwal, B Keshav Baliga, Sri Pangala Upendra S Nayak, Pangala Lakshminaryana Nayak of Udupi, Dr U Padmanabha



Mallya, President of DK District Congress Committee and brother of Srinivas Mallya, were very much close to the towering leader. Noteworthy is the fact that Srinivas Mallya had never recommended the name of his very own brother Dr Padmanabha Mallya for an MLA ticket.

It was Srinivas Mallya who brought Justice KS Hegde, a former Supreme Court Judge and Sri. T.A. Pai, the then Chairman of Syndicate Bank, into politics by securing party tickets for them. Mallya was also instrumental in bringing progressive farmer Shirthady Dharma Samrajya of Moodbidri, Christian leader F. X. D. Pinto and then Dharmadhikari of Dharmasthala Sri D Ratnavarma Heggade into politics.

Smt. Indira Mallya

While writing about so many aspects of Srinivas Mallya, one cannot forget about his better-half Smt. Indira Mallya who silently supported her husband and his endeavours wholeheartedly.

Indira was the daughter of the well to do Kannadi Baagilu Mane (Glass House) Bantwal Damodar Prabhu, a well-respected family which was also famous for its philanthropic activities.

Even as Mallya was active in the freedom struggle, his marriage with Indira was held grandly in Bantwal. In due course of freedom struggle whenever Mallya was jailed, had to go underground or even had to travel a lot on account of party works, Indira patiently and silently stood by her husband through thick and thin. She never came in the way of his hectic life and his political activities nor expressed her displeasure over it.

When Mallya became an MP after independence and shifted his residence to Delhi, in accordance to the tradition of the land and like a true Indian woman she followed her husband and selflessly served him. The doors of Mallya's residence in Delhi were always open for the several state ministers, politicians as well as ordinary party workers from his home district who



arrived to meet him. Indira used to extend hospitality to all the guests with a smiling face and even oversaw accomodation arrangements for them as those were the times when Delhi neither had a Karnataka Bhavan nor adequate number of lodges as of now. In fact, Mallya's residence itself had turned into a guest house for the visitors. That's not all, Indira also arranged sight-seeing to places of tourist and historic importance in Delhi like the Rajghat, Red Fort, Jantar Mantar etc for Mallya's guests.

A man of the calibre of Srinivas Mallya too might have had detractors, but that was not the case with his wife Indira Mallya who was loved and respected by one and all and was affectionately called 'Devathe' (Goddess) or 'Amma' by her admirers for all her selfless service.

During those days people from Dakshina Kannada who planned to go on a pilgrim tour to places like Kashi, Mathura, Haridwara and Hrishikesh used to camp at Mallya's residence before leaving for Hrishikesh and Haridwar. I have heard of how Mallya even extended financial aid to many such pilgrims.

There was a man in Bantwal who led an ascetic life and used to spend his time chanting hymns all through the day. He used to be present at the Sri Venkatramana Temple right during the time of the Trikala Pooja. A dhoti, a small hand towel on his shoulders and Shree Mudras and Gopi Chandana Nama smeared on his forehead, shoulders, chest and stomach areas - this was his simple attire all through the year. He was a Brahmachari and used to deeply engage himself in meditation during early morning and evening hours.

This man had once been to Delhi when he stayed at the residence of Indira Mallya, the daughter of Bantwal. Being well aware of his food habits, Indira Mallya prepared traditional Konkani food which she otherwise served for seers visiting her house. She also arranged for the Delhi tour of the man who later happily left on a Kashi Mathura and Haridwara yatra. However, his pockets were empty by the time he returned to Indira's residence.



Indira who came to know about this, brought the matter to the notice of her husband.

Next day, as usual the man from Bantwal, in true style of a Swamiji had begun Sandhya Vandana and chanting of hymns with great devotion in front of the Lord. With great presence of mind, Mallya addressed the ministers and politicians who had gathered at the courtyard of his house and said so "Hamaare gaav se ek bahut bada sanyasi aaye hai. Unka Ashirvaad lena." (A great swamiji from our town has arrived. Please take his blessings.) He then led all the politicians to the place where this Bantwal man was engrossed in meditation, prostrated before him and dropped a Rs 100 note to the plate in front of him. All other leaders who saw Mallya doing so, followed him and made generous donations. By the time the Sanyasi of Bantwal opened his eyes, he was awe struck and extremely happy to see thousandsof rupees in the plate. Upon his return to Bantwal, this man used to very often recall this kind gesture of Srinivas Mallya and his wife Indira while speaking to his fellow people in Bantwal. Though one may pass this off as a funny incident, it is an instance that highlights the shrewdness and the great presence of mind which Mallya had.

We used to read in newspapers about many such instances wherein Mallya came to the rescue of his friends, party men, colleagues, party and government through his wit.

Shashtyabda Ceremony (60th Birthday)

The Shashtyabda Ceremony of Sri Ullal Srinivas Mallya was arranged in the year 1960 at the Kasturba Medical College Auditorium in Mangaluru on behalf of the DK District Congress Committee by Mallya's admirers who had to put in great efforts to persuade Mallya to agree for such a function.

Mallya's admirers from various towns right from Kundapur to Kasargod had gathered at the venue of the function which was presided over by the



then DK District Congress President Sri. T.A. Pai. Veteran freedom fighters Sri.K.K. Shetty, Dr K Nagappa Alva, S.D. Samrajya Sri. A. Shanker Alva and other leaders were the speakers of the day's ceremony.

All the speakers of the Day were great admirers of US Mallya and naturally their speeches were all praise for Mallya's statesmanship and his developmental initiatives in DK and Udupi district. But the gathering was eagerly awaiting for their man to speak, for he never gave speeches at any function. After all the guests spoke in turns, Srinivas Mallya slowly rose from his chair gave a smile and said "Please never ever ask me to give a speech. If you want me to do anything for the development of your town or area, then please let me know. My greetings to all of you." That was it. Mallya's speech had ended and he soon was back in his chair. Everyone present there were just speechless to the simplicity and humility of their leader, who had contributed so much for the development of the region.

The Srinivas Mallya couple were issueless. But that had never bothered them nor did they express their unhappiness with anyone. On the occasion of his Shashtyabda a peepal tree sapling was planted by him in front of the Shree Venkatramana Temple at Carstreet in Mangaluru. Today, the sapling which Mallya had then planted has grown into a huge tree which also has a platform erected around it. This tree has since then provided and is still providing shade to thousands and thousands of people and is resplendent of the generosity of US Mallya.

The Birth of the Syndicate

It was February 1964. The then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had suffered a cardiac arrest when the All India Congress Session was underway. The Session was brought to an abrupt halt and Pandit Nehru was rushed to a Delhi Hospital where he began to recuperate slowly. However, almost everyone had a feeling that he may not live long. What next after Pandit Nehru? This question had begun lurking the minds of several senior politicians and party leaders. Who can lead the Congress as



well as the Union Government? As this question continued to hover over the minds of leaders, naturally the name of senior politician, statesman and good administrator Sri Morarji Desai who was a minister in Nehru cabinet came up. But everyone was also aware that Morarji Desai was known for his adamant attitude and that he was also a strict disciplinarian. This was the reason why senior party leaders including the then Congress President Kamaraj Nadar, Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy from Andhra Pradesh, Atyulya Ghosh, Congress Treasurer from West Bengal and Nijalingappa from Karnataka did not want Morarji to succeed Nehru. Even Srinivas Mallya was aware of the adamant nature of Morarji Desai.

All the five senior leaders met at Tirupathi in March 1964 and discussed the grave issue and finally arrived at a decision at the abode of Tirupathi Timmappa that instead of Morarji Desai a leader who valued their words should be the Prime Minister of India and Sri Lal Bahaddur Shastri was the ideal choice. They even decided to evolve a strategy to ensure that Lal Bahaddur Shastri himself was chosen the Congress Parliamentary Party leader.

During the change of guard that followed the demise of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the above leaders through clever manoeuvres rolled their dices at the appropriate time and ensured that Shastri was elected as the Prime Minister. This team of senior leaders later came to be known as the Syndicate and in the several years that followed this Syndicate team became a household name, played crucial roles in the nation's politics and was instrumental in the rise and fall of several leaders and governments. By the way the founder of this Syndicate was none other than Srinivas Mallya himself!

'Srinivas Mallya Amar Rahe' - The Final Journey

Srinivas Mallya who was like a Friend, Philosopher and Guide to many of his colleagues, leaders, party workers and even the lay man, was a silent crusader. He strived selflessly for the common good without bothering



much about his own or his family's well being during his several decades long public life including his 17 year long tenure as MP, as the Secretary of Congress Party , as right hand man of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Lal Bahaddur Shastri, as Chief Whip of the party and as an emissary and trouble shooter whenever the party's government was in trouble in any state.

Mallya was also on the board of Canara Bank and several commercial establishments but never used his clout to accrue wealth for himself. The only thing that Mallya had in his name was a 10 acre plot sanctioned to him by the government at Haripadavu in Mangaluru for his service during the freedom struggle and some shares which he had purchased out of his savings.

People of the district have lovingly honoured him with the title "Architect of Modern Dakshina Kannada" in due recognition of the several infrastructural projects initiated by him with the objective of the overall development of his home district.

The end came rather suddenly for Srinivas Mallya. On December 19, 1965, Mallya who was on way to the airport in Delhi to return to Mangaluru had developed severe chest pain. The car was immediately diverted and he was rushed to the Hospital where despite the best efforts doctors could not save his life. Srinivas Mallya's life's journey had come to an end,. A host of leaders including Union Ministers, party leader, and opposition leaders visited Mallya's residence and paid their respects to the departed soul. The then Prime Minister and a close friend of Mallya Sri Lal Bahaddur Shastri who was in Uttar Pradesh, cut short his visit and rushed to Delhi to pay his homage to Srinivas Mallya and condolences to Smt. Indira Mallya. Shastri also made arrangements to send Mallya's mortal remains to his hometown in a special Indian Air Force flight.

As Akashavani aired the news of Srinivas Mallya's demise a pall of gloom pervaded the whole of the district. Thousands of people including



the friends, admirers, well-wishers and relatives of Mallya rushed to Mangaluru. The mortal remains of Mallya were taken from the airport to the residence of his brother Ullal Annu Mallya at Urva Stores where it was placed for public to pay their last respects. It was announced that the funeral procession of Mallya would be held during the afternoon of the following day.

Several state leaders including Chief Minister Nijalingappa his cabinet colleagues, leaders of Congress party and opposition headed towards Mangalore from Bengaluru and other districts. Trade Union leaders as well as head of various organisations too paid their homage to Mallya. The then famous 'Navabharatha' daily, then being published from Mangaluru had given wide coverage to the demise of Mallya.

The slogan 'Srinivas Mallya Amar Rahe' was reverberating in the air. At around 3 pm, Mallya's mortal remains were placed in a decorated open vehicle and the final journey of the Architect of Modern Dakshina Kannada began from his residence. It reached the Bolur Crematorium via Urva, Lalbagh, Karnad Sadashiva Rao Road, Light House, Market Road, Carstreet, New Chitra, Ladyhill and Alake covering a distance of almost six to seven miles.

The then Speaker of Myusuru Vidhana Sabha Sri Bantwal Vaikunta Baliga, State Ministers and several other leaders paid tributes to the departed leader. As Srinivas Mallya's nephew Prabhaker Mallya lit the funeral pyre, once again the slogan 'Srinivas Mallya Amar Rahe' filled the air as people bid a tearful farewell to their most loved leader and Man of the Masses.

Late Srinivas Mallya's public and political life was most transparent. Had the leaders who were at the helm of affairs in the later years followed the footsteps of Mallya, probably India would have realised Gandhiji's vision of Ramarajya by now. Such was the persona of this greatest politician of all times, a visionary leader and the Architect of Dakshina Kannada district.



Ullal Srinivas Mallya was a leader who was a Legend during his life time. His indomitable spirit, his zealousness and will power, his simplicity, his determination to selflessly and silently contribute towards the development of his home land will always serve as a role model for the society for generations to come. Srinivas Mallya who was instrumental in gifting us a flourishing Dakshina Kannada district and had firmly placed our district on the national map, is undoubtedly the best politician and leader of all times.



Reminiscing U.S. Mallya

By Viju Poonachcha

Ullal Srinivas Mallya's contributions to Dakshina Kannada district as a silent crusader are indeed unmatched. The Konkani Saraswats and Gowda Saraswat communities of the coastal belt known for their extraordinary intellect and business acumen have gifted several achievers in diverse fields. Patriot Karnad Sadashiva Rao, harbinger of social reforms Kudmul Ranga Rao, banking crusader Ammembal Subbarao Pai, Rashtrakavi Govinda Pai--- the list is quite long. Even Ullal Srinivas Mallya belonged to the Gowda Saraswat Brahmin community.

Here is an instance dating back to several decades. Srinivas Mallya was just 18 then. The fire of the freedom struggle was already lit and like many youngsters, even Mallya plunged into the freedom movement in 1918. He discontinued his college education to be a part of the freedom struggle and was took part in Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi Salt Sayagriha of 1931. Mallya also suffered atrocities at the hands of the police during the 1942 Quit India Movement.

In post independent India, Mallya won from Udupi Lok Sabha constituency during three successive General elections in 1952, 1957 and 1962 and emerged as a popular elected representative.

Mallya who was a close associate of Nehru and several other Congress leaders was even the National Secretary of the Congress party. He had politely turned down the offer of ministership, and strived for the overall development of Dakshina Kannada district while remaining as Chief Whip of the Government in the Lok Sabha.

It was Mallya's efforts that made the Bajpe Airport, the New Mangalore Port, the present NITK of Suratkal, Karnataka Polytechnic at Kadri, MCF at Panambur, Circuit House at Kadri and Mangaluru Akashavani a reality.



About half a century ago, it took nearly nine hours to reach Kundapur from Mangaluru. If one can reach this destination in just one and a half hours today, thanks to the several bridges which came up enroute in lightning speed, the credit goes entirely to U.S. Mallya's farsightedness and efficiency. Even the Hassan-Mangaluru railway line is a project envisaged by Mallya. The Netravathi bridge at Ullal, the Maani-Ullal road as well as hundreds of other roads in Dakshina Kannada district owe their existence to U.S. Mallya who also gave a touch of modernity to the Wenlock Hospital in Mangaluru.

During those days if one spotted Mallya step out of his house with a small bag in hand, one could surmise that he has set out on the task of embarking upon a new project. Even if it is a road project for a village, right from getting the project sanctioned, approved, ensuring release of funds and overseeing the execution, Mallya did everything with effortless ease, thanks to his good rapport with officials. Every time he visited Mangaluru he never forgot to visit the ongoing project sites to test the quality of the projects.

Ullal Srinivas Mallya disliked grandeur and never even bothered to convene press meets. Neither did he issue press statements boasting his achievements. He was a great saint who considered development as his sole Tapasya. He undertook the Netravathi Bridge and New Mangalore Port projects with the same dedication which one would show while building a temple.

U.S. Mallya always ensured able and efficient officers were posted in the district and got projects executed through them. As Director of Canara Bank for nearly three decades, he also gave suitable suggestions contributing to the growth of the Bank.

It may be no exaggeration to describe Mallya as an Enterprising Statesman as he never used his clout in the government, party or the bureaucracy



for personal growth but instead made good use of it for the overall development of his district.

Though he was elected to the Lok Sabha thrice, Mallya never spoke in the parliament. Even during election campaigning he rarely gave speeches nor did he attend public functions. But he wielded such power that he was instrumental in making his friend BD Jatti as the Chief Minister.

When Srinivas Mallya breathed his last in Delhi on December 19, 1965, the then Prime Minister Lal Bahaddur Shastri had sent his official jet to take Mallya's mortal remains to Mangaluru. Probably, it was unprecedented in the history of Mangaluru to see such a sea of humanity in the city gathered to pay its last respects to Srinivas Mallya, recall several seniors. Some time back when the U.S. Mallya birth centenary related meeting was held at Nalanda School, I remember K.K. Pai recall his association with Mallya.

It seems K.K. Pai used to regularly visit a hotel run by some Dakshina Kannada people in Mumbai. Right in a table in front of Pai, a simple looking man used to have lunch every day. He was alone often and never bothered to look around. Once when K.K. Pai visited the hotel as usual he saw police men outside the hotel. When Pai enquired with the hotel owner, he said the police were looking for US Mallya. When Pai questioned if Mallya used to visit the hotel, the owner said 'Don't you know? He was the one who used to sit at the table right in front of you?' K.K. Pai was aghast to know that the man whom he knew was so simple. Later good friendship had developed between the two.

There are hundreds of such stories relating to Mallya which have become popular like folk lore. Upon his death his wife Indiramma who led a life of poverty passed away a few years ago. Several programmes were organised in Mangaluru in 2002 on the occasion of the birth centenary of Mallya. During the programme, several speakers spoke in length about the simplicity, efficiency and ability of Mallya.



Mallya who rarely spoke in public meetings, always expressed himself through his deeds. But it is nothing but a sheer paradox that speeches itself have become the main asset of the present day politicians.

Today, we can see a statue of Srinivas Mallya, the architect of Dakshina Kannada in front of the New Mangalore Port, even the main entrance of NIT is named after him. There is also the U.S. Mallya Indoor Sports Complex. The need of the hour is to name the Mangaluru International Airport at Bajpe after US Mallya in order to immortalise the leader. It is true that Mallya had never boasted about his achievements during his lifetime, but we can at least proudly say "All these are your contributions." If we have to do so, then the Bajpe airport should be named after Mallya.

Ullal Srinivas Mallya **A Pioneering Personality**

Post-independence, though India has seen innumerable politicians, only a handful of them made a mark through their welfare initiatives. Prominent among them was Ullal Srinivas Mallya, a silent crusader who worked for the overall development of Dakshina Kannada district way beyond the expectations of the people.

When an interim government was formed soon after India attained Independence, the Congress leaders elected Mallya as a Member of the Constituent Assembly, a post he held till 1950. Very soon his area of operation shifted to Delhi. In due course of time he became popular across India and held various posts including membership of independent India's first Housing Committee and Vice President of All India Industries Board thereby bringing repute to Dakshina Kannada in the national map.

"Neither praises, nor criticisms deterred Mallya. Mallya who strongly believed in the proverb 'Talk Less Work More' was a great man who was simplicity personified," the towering leader was once thus described by veteran journalist Sri Bannanje Ramacharya known for his sharp and focused writings. Mallya's concern for the common man, his zeal, his grasping capabilities and organisational skills were simply remarkable.

A hard worker that Mallya was, the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru chose to have him as his close associate. While Nehru was the National President of the Congress, he had appointed Mallya as its General Secretary. Lal Bahaddur Shastri and Balavantaray Mehta too served as General Secretaries of the party along with Mallya.

The First Lok Sabha elections of Independent India were held in 1952. It was Udupi constituency which elected Sri Mallya to the Lok Sabha successively in the 1952, 1957 and 1962 elections. Thus by winning thrice from Udupi constituency Mallya had served as Parliamentarian for 17 years.

Even while he remained active in national politics, Mallya maintained a close rapport with the people of his constituency. During his tenure he ensured that villages got approach roads, bridges, cottage industries and job opportunities too. Mallya had also laid emphasis on water resources management and setting up of industries- indeed a stupendous achievement.

The Bajpe Airport (present Mangaluru International Airport), the Regional Engineering College (Now NITK) at Suratkal in 1965, the



National Highway linking Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka and Kerala, five major bridges across Sharavathi and Netravathi, the Hassan Mangaluru Railway line, the modernisation of District Wenlock Hospital, the Netravathi Bridge at Ullal, extension of electricity facility in the district are just a few of Mallya's achievements. When the Panambur All Weather Port Project proposal came up, there were all efforts to shift the project to Malpe, but it was Mallya's vision to make Mangaluru a major commercial centre that ensured establishment of the Port in Mangaluru itself, though it is a different matter that this decision of Mallya had displeased many in Udupi region. But, it is equally true that in the later years, even Mallya's critics greatly respected and honoured the statesmanship, farsightedness and selfless services of Mallya.

Though Mallya had many more dreams to realise in his home district, his failing health did not permit him to achieve them. In the meantime, he even quit his chief whip post in parliament. The Mallya couple was childless and this was something which constantly worried them. However, they overcame their worries by bringing up 13 year old Janardhana Prabhu, son of a relative and brought him up like they very own son.

In the later years Mallya's health deteriorated further and he had already suffered at least three to four cardiac arrests by then. On December 19, 1965 Mallya who was to travel to Bengaluru from Delhi to attend the Canara Bank Board Meeting, suffered a cardiac arrest while he was heading towards the airport in his car. He was rushed to the hospital where he was pronounced dead. Mallya was 63.

His mortal remains were brought to Mangaluru by a special aircraft of the then Prime Minister Lal Bahaddur Shastri. Thousands of his admirers rushed to Mangaluru to pay their last respects to their departed leader whose last rites were performed at the crematorium near Urva.

The Coastal Karnataka lost one of its invaluable gems whose achievements are standing examples of his farsightedness and great vision for the district.

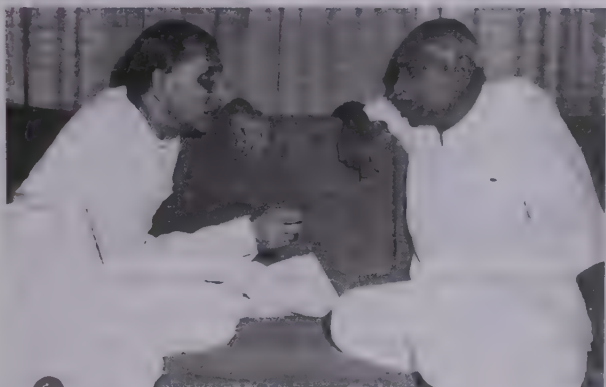
Mallya's contemporaries and close associates Vaman Kudva, Kudpi Srinivas Shenoy, Panchamahala Narasimha Rao, Ramaraya Kini, Dr. A. B. Shetty, K. S. Hegde, N.S. Kille, engineer Shreshta then Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K. Maraja Nadar, B. D. Jatti, as well as Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and Sri Lal Bahadur Shastri were the key motivators and the pillar of strength behind his exemplary achievements.

Muddu Moodubelle

Courtesy: Samprabha, Kinnigoli



Sri. U. Srinivas Mallya at his office in New Delhi.



Sri. U. Srinivas Mallya in deep conversation with veteran leader Kamaraja Nadar. (Both leaders who discussed the future of the nation after the demise of Pandit Nehru were instrumental in founding 'The Syndicate').



Dr Ullal Padmanabha Mallya, the then President of DK District Congress Committee, with his younger brother Srinivas Mallya.



Sri. U Srinivas Mallya seen along with Sri. Hundi Vishnu Kamath. (Kamath, an I.C.S. Officer who was greatly influenced by Subhash Chandra Bose had quit his government job to plunge into the freedom struggle. He was a Lok Sabha Member from Madhya Pradesh and was known as Hari Vishnu Kamath in the North.)



The then A.I.C.C. President Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, Secretaries Lal Bahaddur Shastri and Srinivas Mallya at a Congress High Command meeting in Delhi.



Smt. Indira Mallya welcoming the then Railway Minister Sri. Lal Bahaddur Shastri at her parental home at Bantwal. Her brother Sri. Panduranga Prabhu, Sri. K.S. Hegde and others are also seen.



Sri. B. Venkataraya Baliga, former President of Mangaluru Town Municipality spending leisure time with Srinivas Mallya at Delhi.



Sri. U.S. Mallya seen along with the then Karnataka Chief Minister Sri. B.D. Jatti and Union Minister Sri. Jagajeevan Ram.

Then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru being taken out in a procession to Nehru Maidan during his visit to Mangaluru in 1952. Sri. U. Srinivas Mallya is also seen with Nehru.

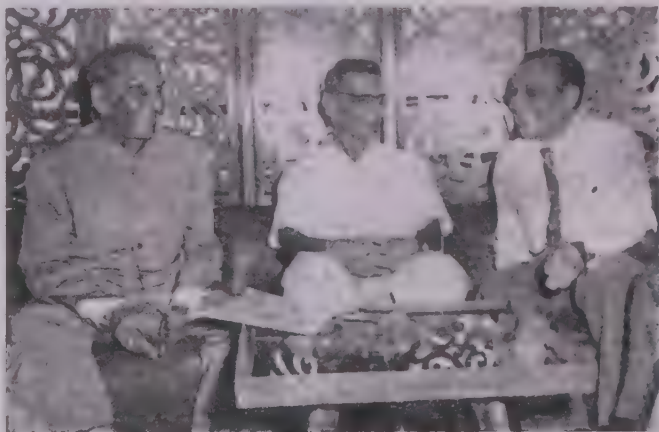




Sri. U.Srinivas Mallya giving project details to then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Sri. Lal Bahaddur Shastri and Smt. Indira Gandhi are also seen.



Srinivas Mallya flanked by then DK District Congress Committee President Dr. Ullal Padmanabha Mallya and Sri Kudpi Srinivas Shenoy, the proprietor of the much famed Taj Mahal Hotel during Nehru's visit to Mangaluru in 1952.



Sri. U. Srinivas Mallya along with the then Chairman of Canara Bank Sri. K.P. Janardhana Prabhu and Goa's famous entrepreneur Vasanth Rao Dempo on the occasion of the inaugural of Canara Bank's first branch in Goa.



Sri. Mallya seen along with veteran Congress leader Dr. Nagappa Alva, then Karnataka Minister Sri. Ramakrishna Hegde and other senior leaders during the 1961 Madhurai Congress session.



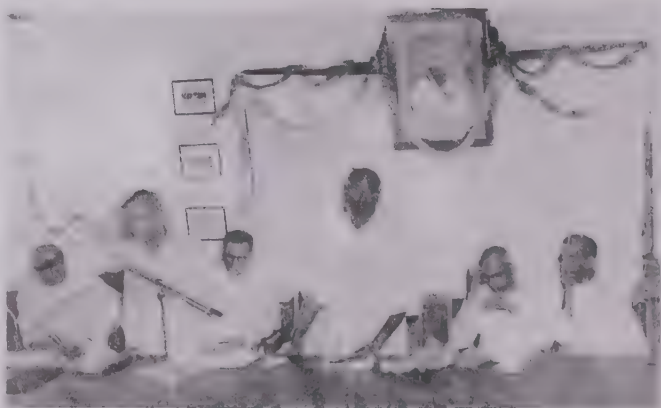
Then All India Congress President U.N. Debhar, Finance Minister Morarji Desai and Srinivas Mallya coming out of the Parliament.



Sri. Mallya in a leisurely talk with veteran leaders Kamaraj Nadar, Govinda Vallabha Pant and Lal Bahaddur Shastri.



Sri. G.B. Panth, then Union Home Minister, Sri Morarji Desai, Chief Minister of then Bombay Presidency and Sri Mallya during the Congress Committee meeting.



Then A.I.C.C. President Kamaraja Nadar, Sri. U. Srinivas Mallya and Madras Presidency Ministers Dr A.B. Shetty and others at the D.K. Congress Committee Office in Mangaluru.



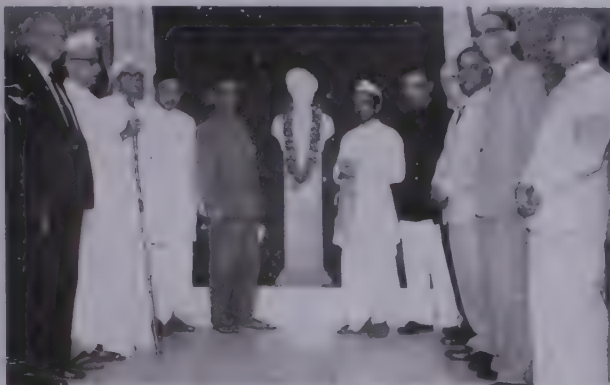
Then Union Ports Minister Sri. Raj Bahaddur, Karnataka State Minister Sri. Veerendra Patil Lok Sabha Member Sri. Shanker Alva, Legislative Assembly Member Sri. S.S. Kolkebail and others along with Srinivas Mallya during a meeting held to discuss the New Mangalore Port Project at Panambur in Mangaluru.



Then Union Minister Sri. Govinda Vallabha Panth, Mysuru Pradesh Congress President Sahukar Chennayya and others seen in the company of Sri. Mallya.



Then Industries Minister R. Venkatraman, then Madras Chief Minister K. Kamaraj, Acharya Kripalani, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Sri. Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy seen along with Sri. U.S. Mallya.



Picture taken on the occasion of the Canara Bank Head Office Building inauguration at Bengaluru by then Karnataka Chief Minister Sri. B.D. Jatti. Then Karnataka ministers Sri. Vaikunta Baliga, Bank Chairman Sri. K.P.J. Prabhu, Managing Director, Sri. A. Damodar Pai and Sri. U.S. Mallya are seen participating in the function.



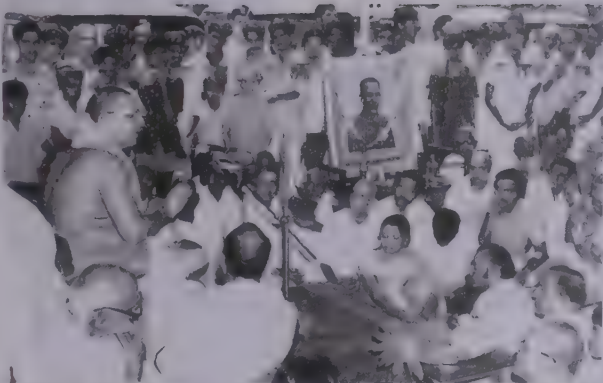
Sri. U.S. Mallya in conversation with Congress President Sri. K Kamaraj Nadar and then Union Minister Sri. B.B. Krishnamachari.



A photograph that reveals how Sri. U.S. Mallya kept himself up-to-date about the happenings across the nation and state, amid his busy schedule. Mallya going through a newspaper even as he is engaged in a conversation with Sri. K.P.J. Prabhu and Sri. Vasanth Rao Dempo.



Late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi consoling a grieving Smt. Indira Mallya following the demise of Sri.U.S. Mallya in Delhi in 1965.



Srimad. Sudhindra Theertha Swamiji of Kashi Mutt giving his blessings on the occasion of a Pooja ceremony held at the residence of Sri Mohan Mallya (Srinivas Mallya's nephew) at Carstreet in Mangaluru on the occasion of the Uttarakriya of U.S.Mallya.



Sri. U.S.Mallya and Smt Indira Mallya while leaving for Delhi by train.



The statue of Sri Ullal Srinivas Mallya who was instrumental in establishing the Karnataka Regional Engineering College at Suratkal (Now NITK)



The statue of Ullal Srinivas Mallya who laid the foundation for the New Mangalore Port Project.

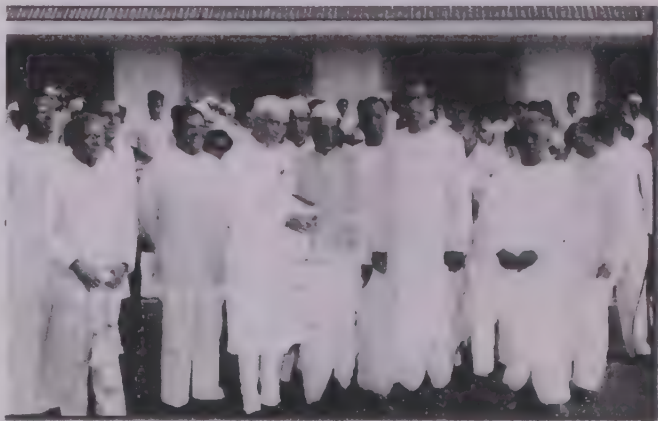


Photo taken on the occasion of the then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's visit to Mangalaru. Seen along with Nehru are then District Congress Committee President Dr. Ullal Padmanabha Mallya, then Rajya Sabha Member Sri. K. Sadananda Hegde, Ullal Srinivas Mallya, Sri. K. Sooryanarayana Adiga, M Lokayya Shetty and others.



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Email: vishwakonkani@gmail.com, Website: www.vishwakonkani.org.

Vishwa Konkani Sahitya	Title	Author / Translator	Price (₹)
1	Mahakavi Govinda Pai (Hindi)	Written by: Shri Kayyara Kinhanna Rai(in Kannada), Translated by: Dr. L. Sunitha Bai, Kochi (Hindi)	200/=
2	Mahakavi Govinda Pai (Konkani)	Written by: Shri Kayyara Kinhanna Rai(in Kannada), Translated by: Dr. L. Sunitha Bai, Kochi (Konkani)	200/=
3	Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay (Life And Works) Konkani	Written by Dr. Jyotsna Krishnananda Kamat (Konkani)	200/=
4	Noopura (Kannada)	Written by Bakibab Borkar (a collection of Konkani Poems) Translated by Smt. Shakuntala Kini (Kannada)	100/=
5	Kannada -Konkani Ratnakosh (Dictionary) Kannada -Konkani	A dictionary edited by Shabd Ratnakar M. Madhava Pai	500/=
6	Vishwa Konkani Parichaya Kosha Vol-1 (Konkani)	Dr. Thanaji Halankar	200/=
7	The Kiln (English Novel)	Konkani Novel 'Havthan' by Mahabaleshwar Sail, English Trns. By Vidya Pai, Kolkata	200/=

Vishwa Konkani Sahitya	Title	Author / Translator	Price (₹)
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9	Choola (Malayalam Novel)	Konkani by Mahabaleshwar Sail, Malayalam Translation by Dr. L. Suneetha Bai	200/=
10	Bholanthuru Krishna Prabhu (Kannada)	Written by Sri B. Madhukar Mallya	50/=
11	Tembare (Konkani)	Kannada Novel by Sri M. Veerappa Moly, Konkani Translation by Sri. Ramesh Lad	150/=
12	Adhunika Konkani Kathegalu (Konkani)	Translation of Konkani Short Stories edited by Dr. Geetha Shenoy	200/=
13	Vaishakhi (Konkani Kavya)	Kannada Kavya by Late Rashtrakavi Manjeshwar Govinda Pai, Konkani Translation by Prof. M. Madhav Pai	100/=
14	Ruthu Sankramana - a collection of Konkani Short Stories (Kannada)	Author Sri. Gokuldas Prabhu, Translated by Kannada Dr. Geetha Shenoy	125/=
15	"Opera (Konkani Novel)	Jayant Kaikini (Kannada Novel), Translated into Konkani by Ramesh Lad	125/=
16	Vishwa Konkani Parichaya Kosha Vol: 2	Dr. Thanaji Halankar,Goa	500/=

Vishwa Konkani Sahitya	Title	Author / Translator	Price (₹)
17	'Saiba Bhogos' is a Konkani Novel (Part 1) (Konkani Novel)	Author Khadap (the late V.J.P. Saldanha) Trns. Literation to Devanagary Script.	200/=
18	"Ek Bhikshuka Chakravartili Kani" (An autobiography of Sri Basti Vaman Shenoy) (Konkani)	Basti Vaman Shenoy.	500/=
19	"Vaishakha Phulo" Novel	Konkani Novel by Smt. M. Padma Shenoy.	150/=
20	Avige (Novel) Kannada	Original Konkani Novel 'Hawthan' Written by Mr. Mahabaleshwar Sail, Translated to Kannada by Mr. S M Krishana Rao, Bengaluru.	120/=
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(Konkani in Kannada script)

Sl.No.	Title	Author	Price
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Sl.No.	Title	Price
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स्तुति श्री गान्धि बाह ननाक १५२७ राक्षस सवत्सर चैत्र वद १० को
 श्री राज पाटणी वैसिके रग नृ त था वि नायक पंडित आर नृ ते गो वैद्य
 तानि को यि वा कु मंदार आं डि कि फां डे त्या वा निरो पान ह्या म ल बा रे द्रा
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 वा अ तु न रा न जो जो गु ण आ म का क ळे ले गो वा त्या आ ख दां री ना व प ळे उ तु
 आ जि दानि वर् ष स का णि सा जे आ मिं ला गि रा वू तु हा लि बु स पा दू न दि ला तें ल
 टि क अ वि द्या णुं चा क न ज अ वि द्या णु आ मिं आ मं ची ति सा णि क र्णु दि ली
 ते स त्य द्य णु मा नु चे जा इ द द्य णु ना ग र ब रा पा न ह ब र वू तु दि ली श्री

उमासद

विनायकपंडित

आप्पु वीठ्ठल

The Testimonial in Konkani Language, as published in "Hortus
 Malabaricus", a 12 Volume comprehensive treatise that deals with the
 medicinal properties of the flora in the Indian state of Kerala, conceived
 by Henrik Van Rheede, Governor of Dutch Malabar, published between
 1678 and 1693. The Testimonial certifies the authenticity of medicinal
 information recorded in the Volumes. It has been inscribed in Konkani
 Language, duly signed by Ranga Bhatta, Vinayak Pandit and Appu
 Bhatta, three Konkani physicians who were prominent contributors to
 the work. Apart from Latin, the plant names have also been recorded in
 Konkani, Malayalam and Arabic languages in these volumes.



Outstanding Konkani leader Basti Vaman Shenoy hails from Bantwal. He is a veteran short story writer, author and the publisher of 'Basti Prakashana Bantwal.' He is the Founder of 'Saraswathi Kala Prasarak Sangh' and 'Saraswathi Sangeetha Shala.' He is Founder and Correspondent of Thumbay High School, Pre-University College, Central School and Thumbay B.B.M. College of Mohiyuddin Educational Trust.

He has contributed significantly towards the development of Konkani language and literature by serving as President of Karnataka Konkani Sahitya Academy for two successive terms. He has even successfully served as President of All India Konkani Parishad and Konkani Bhasha Mandal, Karnataka. Presently, he is the President of 'Konkani Bhasa Ani Sanskriti Pratishthan' which he founded in 1996. It is also a matter of pride that he is a Member of the Supreme Governing Body of 'Academy of General Education' Manipal.

Basti Vaman Shenoy has also become a household name after he successfully organised the first ever Vishwa Konkani Sammelan and Vishwa Saraswat Sammelan, in his capacity as Principal Chief Convenor.

The 'Vishwa Konkani Sardar' and the 'Vishwa Saraswat Sardar' Titles have been befittingly conferred on him. It is hard to find a personality like him who has completely dedicated himself towards the cause of Konkani language and literature and Culture.

The Vishwa Konkani Kendra or the World Konkani Centre, the pride of Konkani speaking people which has come up at Shaktinagar in Mangaluru is the greatest achievement of Basti Vaman Shenoy. The Vishwa Konkani Sahitya Academy and the Vishwa Konkani Nataka Academy formed under the Kendra have been making invaluable contributions towards Konkani literature and culture. The Vishwa Konkani Scholarship Fund and 'Skill' Development Workshops are unique and have been the motivating factors for young Konkani men and women in their pursuit for excellence.

Vi. Ga. Nayak